

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Internet/ST0R Stirs Competition

By John Scott, K8YC

The Internet has changed the way many things are done. I was a latecomer to the DX chase. In many respects, I don't know the "way it used to be" in chasing DX. Many would probably argue that DXing was a somewhat "lonely" activity if we think back to the 1950s or 1960s. DX Newsletters or QST of that era let folks know that a certain entity might be active. It was up to the DXer to listen, listen, and then listen some more—slowly spinning the main tune knob to find the DX if it was even on the air. "Hallelujah" if you found it. Then maybe a phone call to your buddy to announce the presence of the DX—after you'd worked it, of course!

Move ahead a few years and the presence of VHF repeaters would allow one to announce to his friends within repeater range where the action was.

In the mid-1990s, I began serving as a volunteer radio operator in the Discovery Place Science Center radio room. With a good antenna system, a good rig, and a 500 watt solid state linear amplifier I began to hear things I had never dreamed of hearing, and the DX bug bit me. But what was this

| | | |
|--------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| W4VHF | Ted Goldthorpe | President |
| W4GRW | Bill Fisher | Vice-Pres. |
| W3ZL | Cliff Wagoner | Sec.-Treas. |
| K4MD | Joe Simpkins | Cluster Mgr. |
| W3OA | Dick Williams | Contest Mgr. |
| W3GQ | Paul Sturpe | Cluster Mgr.- North Area |
| WB4BXW | Wayne Setzer | Webmaster |
| K8YC | John Scott | Editor |

packet radio thing called the "Cluster"? It wasn't long before I knew the power of the PacketCluster being run by a local group called CDXA. By early 1997, I was a member of CDXA and gleaning a lot of information on how to be a DXer from some real experts in DXing.

It was in early 1997 that I became aware of just how the Internet was changing the DX World. One Saturday I was at Discovery Place and I saw VK0IR spotted on the cluster on several bands. "This must be a DXpedition", I thought. (I hadn't yet learned to use the various newsletters or Ohio-Penn DX Association bulletins on the cluster.) When I got home, I told the XYL that I thought I had worked a DXpedition, and I had to find out what it was. A quick perusal of QST showed that I had worked Heard Island. (A DXpedition has yet to return there in the intervening years.) I was pleasantly surprised to find that their logs were available on line! By Sunday afternoon, I found KA8FSM was in the log. Is that neat or what?

DXpeditions have added more and more "gratification" features to their websites each year since then. Some DXpeditions have had near real-time updates to their website logs where you can see your QSO pop up within minutes of its occurrence. In the past few years, DXpeditions have started to show band slot leaders—first for the world at large and lately by continent and even zone!

(Continued on page 2)

| CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems | |
|--|--|
| K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet) | k4md.no-ip.com |
| W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet) | w4dxa.no-ip.com |
| CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600) | W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC |
| World Wide Web Homepage | www.cdxa.org |
| Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM) | Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC |

(Continued from page 1)

The DXpedition to the new entity of South Sudan, operating as ST0R, has brought Internet-based log information to a new height. Their website shows the band/slot leaders by Continent, Zone, and Mode. Updates are made at least daily and sometimes more often. This feature resulted in a healthy competition within the ranks of CDXA. The rising band/slot counts are being compiled by W3OA and posted to the CDXA website. The race is on. As of Sunday afternoon (August 7) the leaders, down to ten band/slots are: K4XP (18), K5EK (17), N2TU (15), W4AG (14), K4MK (13), W7DO (13), KI4TZ (12), N4ZC (12), K3XC (11), K4CIA (11), K4KL (11), K4MQG (11), N4JJ (11), N4PQX (10), W4NL (10), and WA8WV (10). AND, the DXpedition still has several days to run.

Competition abounds at lower levels, too. With the solar burst of last Thursday, K8YC managed to put three band slots in the log in a 31 minute period with his less than optimal antenna array. By Friday morning, pleasure grew in that household. For those who cannot boast big antennas and linear amplifiers, competition still exists at a personal level. So, perhaps there still is an element of "solitude" in even today's DXing. Yet, you'll never fully retain that sense of isolation once you dive into the Pileups!

Roving with AD4IE

Paul Ponak (AD4IE) was so pleased with his VHF/UHF rover setup that he sent me the following:

"Hey John, I thought a few in CDXA might be interested in my rover setup in my new truck. I'm including

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
Copyright 2011

Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

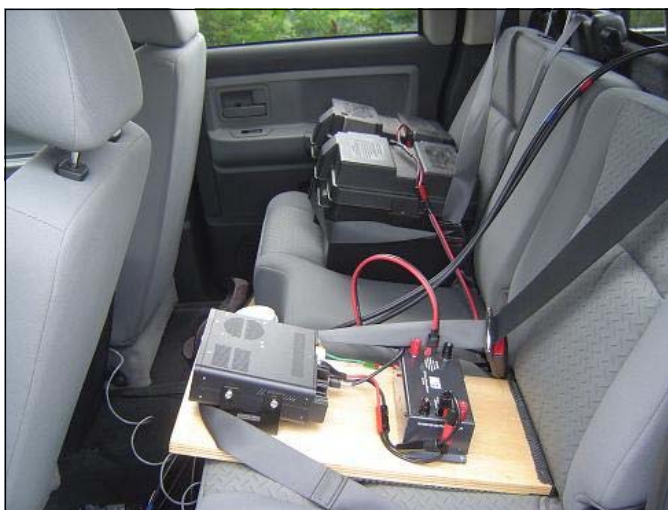
Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.

some photos. I ran two IC-7000's for the recent CQ VHF contest. One rig is permanently mounted on the floor of the back seat with the control head on a cup mount on the console up front. The second is mounted on a piece of plywood along with an MFJ battery booster on the back seat. The head goes on a temporary Lido gooseneck attached to the passenger seat. Note that the batteries and radio are held securely by the seat belts.



Below is a picture of the "cockpit" from which I operate. I hand logged for the contest and transferred the logs to a computer when I got home.



The last picture shows the 4 sections of heavy duty TV antenna masts so you can see my antenna setup. The lowest mast is bolted onto a fold down bike rack and is reinforced with a section of half inch iron pipe. The next section up contains two 2-meter loops with a 6 meter loop between them. I can drive with this configuration

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

(except for one tunnel on the Blue Ridge Parkway). The third section of mast is empty to provide spacing for the second 6-meter loop. It takes about 10 minutes to tilt down and install the added sections when I reach an operating area. The back seat and “antenna farm” are more impressive for the ARRL contests when I add a 220MHz radio in the back seat and an 8 foot mast with stacked 432MHz loops and a 220MHz vertical.



oooOOOooo

Cameron Hasson (KJ4EDF) Reaches Goal

In the July, 2008 issue of The Pileup, we reported on a young man named Cameron Hasson (6-1/2 years old at the time) who was written up in the Charlotte Observer for earning his Technician Class Amateur Radio Operators license. Here was an opportunity. One of our members had made it known that he had some spare gear if the club ever came upon young person interested in the hobby needing some equipment. CDXA got in touch with Cameron through his parents, Eric and Beverly, who also had become licensees and arranged to present a transceiver to Cameron.

Since 2008, we've seen Cameron at CDXA social events, at SEDCO, and even at CDXA luncheons when his school schedule permitted. Cameron made it clear some day he wanted to become an Amateur Extra Class Operator back in 2008. Over a year ago, Cameron passed the General Class examination. From time to time when he showed up for luncheons, we were kept aware that he had taken the Amateur Extra Exam and was very close to a passing grade. Then on July 27,

2011 Cameron's Dad, Eric, sent us all a note telling us that Cameron had passed the Amateur Extra Examination and now was a full-fledged Amateur Extra Operator. By reckoning, Cameron must now be 9 years old or maybe 10, but whether 9 or 10, passing the Extra Exam with its mathematically demanding sections on radio theory is quite an achievement at any age.

Congratulations, Cameron, for both setting a goal and then pursuing it to completion. We'll see you in the Pileups—on the Amateur Extra portions of the bands!

Welcome New Member

Summer is upon us, and not too many are thinking ham radio in these “dog days” of August. Yet, we were pleased to see that **Craig England (KF2X)** noticed his Pileup wasn't coming as usual and figured out his membership had somehow lapsed. His address has changed to Cave Creek, Arizona since the last time we saw it, and we presume Craig was in the process of moving and just didn't remember to renew his membership. We hope the things we report on the doings here in the Southeast USA continue to keep Craig's interest in his new abode. Welcome back, Craig!

CDXA Chuck Wagon's a'comin'!



Amidst all the contests and DXpeditions, we take the time each year to get together and enjoy a little good food and camaraderie. This is in the form of the **CDXA Barbeque!** Saturday, October 8 is the date for 2011.

When: Saturday, October 8, 2011
Time: 5:00PM
Where: Ken Boyd's “spread”
6319 Farmlake Drive
Charlotte, NC

Put the date on your calendar. More information will be forthcoming in short order.

CQ Publishes Results of the 2010 CQWW SSB Contest

Dick Williams, W3OA

The final results of last year's CQ World Wide SSB Contest are published in the August issue of CQ. Once again, CDXA is well represented.

This was the fifth year we have entered the team contesting competition. CDXA's five-man SSB team (KI4TZ, KZ2I, N4PQX, W3GQ, and W3OA) scored 5,760,167 points. That was enough to place us fourth among the 19 teams entered and the highest scoring teams with all members operating in the USA.

Listed below, in alphabetical order, are the calls of CDXA members who scored in the top half of their class as listed in CQ. The last column shows the entrant's place in his class and the number of entrants in that class. Those calls show in bold face will receive certificates from CQ Magazine.

K4LY placed first in the U.S. and seventh in the World in the Assisted, Low Power, class.

We hope to have similar information for the CW contest next month. We won't know how we did in the Club Competition until then because both SSB and CW results are used in computing club scores.

Mark your calendar for this year's CQWW contests. SSB is the weekend of October 28, CW the weekend of November 25. Get going on those antenna projects now so you'll be ready in October!

| Call | Final Score | Area | Class | Place/No in Class |
|----------------------------------|-------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| AA4V/VP9 (AA4V & N4SF) | 4,461,691 | Bermuda | Multi-Op, Single Transmitter | 1/1 |
| K3XC | 1,339,000 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, High Power | 6/84 |
| K4DXA | 317,245 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, Assisted | 24/67 |
| K4LY | 1,385,268 | US | Single Op, Assisted, Low Power | 1/20 Also 7 th in World |
| K4ML | 58,240 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, Low Power | 23/89 |
| K5EK | 1,127,742 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, Assisted | 11/67 |
| KI4TZ | 666,750 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, High Power | 12/84 |
| KZ2I | 1,168,640 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, High Power | 7/84 |
| N4PQX | 1,112,105 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, Assisted | 12/67 |
| N4ZC | 1,752,261 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, Assisted | 4/67 |
| W3GQ | 1,414,272 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, Assisted | 8/67 |
| W3OA | 1,398,400 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, Assisted | 9/67 |
| W3ZL | 94,920 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, Assisted, Low Power | 7/20 |
| W4FRA | 23,500 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, Low Power | 40/89 |
| W7DO | 595,712 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, Assisted | 20/67 |
| WW4CP | 126,564 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, High Power | 36/84 |

CDXA Scores in 2011 ARRL International DX CW Contest

Dick Williams, W3OA

The final results of this year's ARRL International DX CW contest have been published. Listed below, in alphabetical order, are the CDXA members who contributed to CDXA's club score and scored in the top half of their class. The last column shows the entrant's place in his class in the geographic area shown and the number of entrants in that class from that area.

We hope to have the results of the ARRL phone contest in next month's Pileup. At that time we should also know how we did in the Affiliated Club Competition.

| Call | Final Score | Area | Class | Place/No in Class |
|----------|-------------|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| K2SX | 1,626,870 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, Assisted, High Power | 3/64 |
| K4YR | 480,702 | North Carolina | Single Op, High Power | 5/11 |
| K5EK | 1,795,218 | North Carolina | Single Op, High Power | 1/11 |
| K0COP | 128,772 | South Carolina | Single Op, High Power | 2/3 |
| KH6/AA4V | 414,180 | Oceania | Single Op, Assisted, High Power | 2/4 |
| KI4TZ | 816,855 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, Assisted, Low Power | 3/25 |
| N4PQX | 621,378 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, Assisted, High Power | 23/64 |
| N4ZC | 1,722,546 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, Assisted, High Power | 2/64 |
| W3GQ | 1,492,344 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, Assisted, High Power* | 7/64 |
| W3OA | 1,403,340 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, Assisted, High Power | 11/64 |
| W3ZL | 96,180 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, Assisted, Low Power | 12/25 |
| W4NZC | 169,260 | North Carolina | Single Op, Low Power | 5/15 |
| W4WNT | 123,039 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, Assisted, Low Power | 11/25 |
| W7DO | 1,095,930 | US – Call Area 4 | Single Op, Assisted, High Power | 14/64 |



DX King News

By Dick Williams, W3OA



Item 1: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win a 26 inch LCD flat panel television are on page 8 of the January Pileup
<http://www.cdxa.org/pileup/archives/cdxa1101.pdf>.

Item 2: Here are the 2011 DX King scores I have as of July 31:

| Call | Category | Countries | Zones | Total |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|
| K5EK | Unlimited | 255 | 40 | 295 |
| W3OA | Unlimited | 239 | 39 | 278 |
| WA4DT | Unlimited | 236 | 40 | 276 |
| W4HG | Unlimited | 236 | 40 | 276 |
| K3XC | Unlimited | 228 | 39 | 267 |
| W3GQ | Unlimited | 226 | 38 | 264 |
| W1AJT | Unlimited | 196 | 39 | 235 |

| Call | Category | Countries | Zones | Total |
|--------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|
| N4PQX | Unlimited | 195 | 40 | 235 |
| K1MIJ | Unlimited | 194 | 38 | 232 |
| KZ2I | Unlimited | 196 | 40 | 236 |
| W3ZL | Formula | 187 | 36 | 223 |
| K8YC | Unlimited | 168 | 38 | 206 |
| K2SX | Unlimited | 147 | 37 | 184 |
| N2TU | Unlimited | 146 | 33 | 179 |
| W4WNT | Formula | 141 | 29 | 170 |
| K4ESE* | Unlimited | 133 | 34 | 167 |
| W4NZC | Formula | 128 | 30 | 158 |
| K3IRV | Formula | 122 | 31 | 153 |
| NK0S | Unlimited | 104 | 31 | 135 |
| W4UFO | Unlimited | 104 | 30 | 134 |
| AF1E | Unlimited | 82 | 24 | 106 |

*All 80 meters

Item 3: Don't forget to send me (w3oa@roadrunner.com) your DX Marathon scores as of the last day of each month after your score reaches 100.

The Back Page

South Sudan, ST0R, stirs competition within CDXA and around the world. Here's a short reflection on how the Internet has altered the landscape when it comes to DXing. See Page 1.

Take a ride with **Paul Ponak (AD4IE)** as he sets about **Roving** in VHF contests. See Page 2.

Cameron Hasson (KJ4EDF) is now an Amateur Extra Class licensee. Why is this significant? See Page 3.

We're getting close to the time of the **Annual CDXA Barbeque**. Put the date on your calendar. See Page 3.

Results of CQWW SSB 2010 are now in. See W3OA's analysis on Page 4.

Results of **ARRL's International DX CW Contest—2011** are reported by Dick Williams on Page 5.

DX King is still running on a hot pace with 12 members having more than 200 points compared to only 8 at this point last year, and the leaders are ahead of last years pace in terms of totals, too. See Page 5.

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

jcw53@cornell.edu

First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.